

Departmental Short-Term and Long-Term Strategic Issues

Department: Police

FY2007

Short-Term Issues: List critical issues facing the department now and through the next couple fiscal years.

- Providing response times that are comparable to other local law enforcement agencies require the addition of sufficient personnel to staff and additional patrol districts.
- Equipping and furnishing the new public safety building in order to maintain quality citizen services.
- Potential new Wal-Mart in South County would significantly increase demands for service.
- The funding allocations for vehicle replacement remain at a level that does not allow for compliance to the County Vehicle Replacement Policy.
- Increasing demands for service and substandard staffing levels could threaten the Department's ability to maintain service levels.
- The anticipated loss of grant funds could result in the loss of the Domestic Violence Against Women program without additional funding allocations.
- Increased need for traffic enforcement on Interstate 81 and US 220 and other primary roadways in Roanoke County.
- Aging vehicle fleet will lead to higher maintenance costs and may lead to increases in response times and result in officer/citizen safety issues.

Long-Term Issues: List major issues or trends that may confront the department beyond the next couple fiscal years.

- The creation of a functional South County Police Precinct will provide better service to South Roanoke County by expanding the availability of resources to the citizenry.
- Increases in the number of permitted activities at Spring Hollow, bike paths, and other outdoor recreational activities challenge the Department's ability to provide adequate policing of those areas.
- An aging County population requires both more traditional and non-traditional law enforcement services which will increase calls for service requiring additional officers and equipment to meet those demands.
- The continued population growth is such that it is expected to soon exceed Roanoke City's levels. In addition, some demographic changes may alter the intensity of required police services. An increase in staffing is needed to adequately manage these changes.
- The Department continues to face challenges in recruiting and hiring qualified applicants for positions of police officer and community service officers. These problems are faced by other law enforcement agencies throughout the country and developing successful strategies to resolve these problems is critical to the delivery of services.